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Faculty Senate Executive Committee Meeting Minutes for December 15th, 2003

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Faculty Senate Executive Committee Meeting Minutes for December 15nd, 2003

Attendance:

Senators:	Kevin Kesler (0930)	Tom Kent (1189)	Marv Halling (3179)
	Kevin Doyle (4025)	Ed Heath (3306)	Carol Kochan (2676)
	Dean Miner (801-370-8469)		
Presenters:	Joyce Kinkead (1706)	Brent Miller (1180)	Gerry Giordano (1470)
	John DeVilbiss (1358)	Jack Payne (2201)	Charles Thompson (7237)
	Karla Petty (1726)	Stephanie Kukic (1736)	Dennis Welker (3552)
Administration:	Kermit Hall (1157)		
Visitors:	Steven von Niederhausern (881-7023)		
Excused:	Vance Grange (2702)	Janis Boettinger (4026)	Dale Blahna (2544)
	Bruce Miller (2232)	Chris Coray (2861)	

Call to Order

Kevin Kesler called the meeting to order at 3:05 pm.

Minutes:

Carol Kochan moved to accept the minutes of November 17th. The motion, seconded by Dean Miner, was passed.

Announcements:

The next FSEC Lunch with President Hall will be held on Tuesday, January 20th, at noon in Champ Hall.

A volunteer is needed for a search committee for a benefits position in the personnel office. Kevin Kesler volunteered to be on the committee.

Committee Reports:

EPC Business

Joyce Kinkead presented the most recent EPC Business, which included several "cleaning up" deletions and program removals. Carol Kochan moved to place EPC Business to the Consent Agenda. The motion, seconded by Marv Halling, passed.

Scholarship Advisory Board

Joyce Kinkead then presented the Scholarship Advisory Board report. One important point was that most of the scholarships are actually waivers legislated by the state. For the first time they're charting commitments in awards made by students. There is a new University Research Fellowship program for new freshmen which is funded by the VP of Research office. This will replace the University Club Scholars program and will allow for better tracking, and ask for a return on the Universities investment in them. Then have progressed from granting 1 and 2 year awards to 4 year awards, which is greater encouragement for students to come and stay at USU. Carol Kochan moved to place the Scholarship Advisory Report on the Consent Agenda. The motion, seconded by Kevin Doyle, was passed.

Research Council

Brent Miller explained that the Research Council report is fully detailed in the 12 pages of text and several tables. He asked for questions, and encouraged the Executive Committee to review the report and let him know of any questions or concerns. Carol Kochan moved to place the Research Council report on the Consent Agenda. The motion, seconded by Tom Kent, was passed.

Council on Teacher Education

Gerry Girodano summarized the Report from the Council on Teacher Education. One concern is the caliber of the teachers who are going into public education. The students who are going into teacher education have on average a higher ACT and GPA, than those who don't. There has been an increase on students going into Teacher Education, which will help combat the lack teachers state wide. USU prepares more teachers for public schools than any other university in Utah, and 88% of the teachers USU produces stay in Utah to teach. Carol Kochan moved to place the Council on Teacher Education Report to the Consent Agenda. The motion, seconded by Marv Halling, was passed.

Aggie Ecology

Jack Payne presented the Aggie Ecology report on campus environmental sustainability. The question is how to promote an

english garden, when the university exists in a high desert biome? Utah is currently the driest state in the nation, and also the highest in the nation in per capita use of water. Committees have looked into landscape, waste management, recycling, water use, energy use, and the scholarship of sustainability on the academic side. There now exists a water research laboratory. The report attempts to cover the ecological footprint of the University, and will be presented in more detail at the Faculty Senate meeting in January. Dean Miner moved to place the Aggie Ecology report on the agenda as an Information Item. The motion, seconded by Tom Kent, was passed.

New University Website and Commercial

John DeVilbiss and Charles Thompson presented the new University website, and explained the reasoning behind the changes, the new navigation, and functions of the website. They also presented, with the help of student videographer Steven von Niederhausern, a new commercial promoting USU with material on students sending experiments into space. Carol Kochan moved to place the report on the agenda as an Information Item. The motion, seconded by Kevin Doyle, was passed.

Student Government Update

Stephanie Kukic and Karla Petty gave a rundown on this year's ASUSU leadership, their current projects, and responsibilities. One issue was the Student Bill of Rights, which was introduced in the last Faculty Senate meeting. This will become an annual report due to the FSEC in the fall, to keep the Faculty Senate apprised of the student side of the university, their goals, and efforts to make the university better for students. The annual report will strengthen relationships between students and faculty and will initiate changes that would be mutually beneficial. Ed Heath moved to place the Student Government Update on the agenda as an Information Item. The motion, seconded by Tom Kent, passed.

Key Issues and Action Items:

Faculty Evaluations on the Web

Dennis Welker expressed the faculty concern regarding the public availability of faculty evaluations on the internet. This was one subject brought up in the open session of Faculty Forum. He presented a compromise which would restrict access of the records to the QUAD system, allowing students, and not the general public, to view them. Discussion continued about whether the records are legally meant to be private or public. President Hall suggested that the more important issue is the construction of the evaluation. Joyce Kinkead explained that students would like to fill out the evaluations online, perhaps see midterm evaluations. The decision was made that more discussion needs to take place after more research on what other institutions are doing about this issue of privacy and faculty evaluation. Carol Kochan moved to table the issue for the next FSEC meeting on January 26th. The motion, seconded by Kevin Doyle, was passed.

University Business:

President Hall presented the current University Business. Ron Godfrey is the new VP of Business and Finance. There is a tuition task force which is examining tuition pricing and financial aid issues. The Governor was supportive of higher education, recommending a 2% salary increase and about a 12% contribution to benefits. She also expressed the desire that the two state research institutions join forces to be more competitive on major grants. Joint Boards of Trustees meetings have been working on enhancing research capacity, and more fully stimulate economic development in the state. He addressed the need to pay attention to the development of the Student Bill of Rights. Progress is being made on the Children's House, the new child development center. Efforts are being made towards a Winter Graduation, which will most likely start in 2004. Compact Plan initiatives are being worked on. Banner is progressing nicely. Inaugural lectures by recently promoted full professors will begin in January.

Adjourn:

Kevin Kesler called for adjournment. The meeting adjourned at 4:57 pm.